

OLD HOUSES

In the South County of Rhode Island

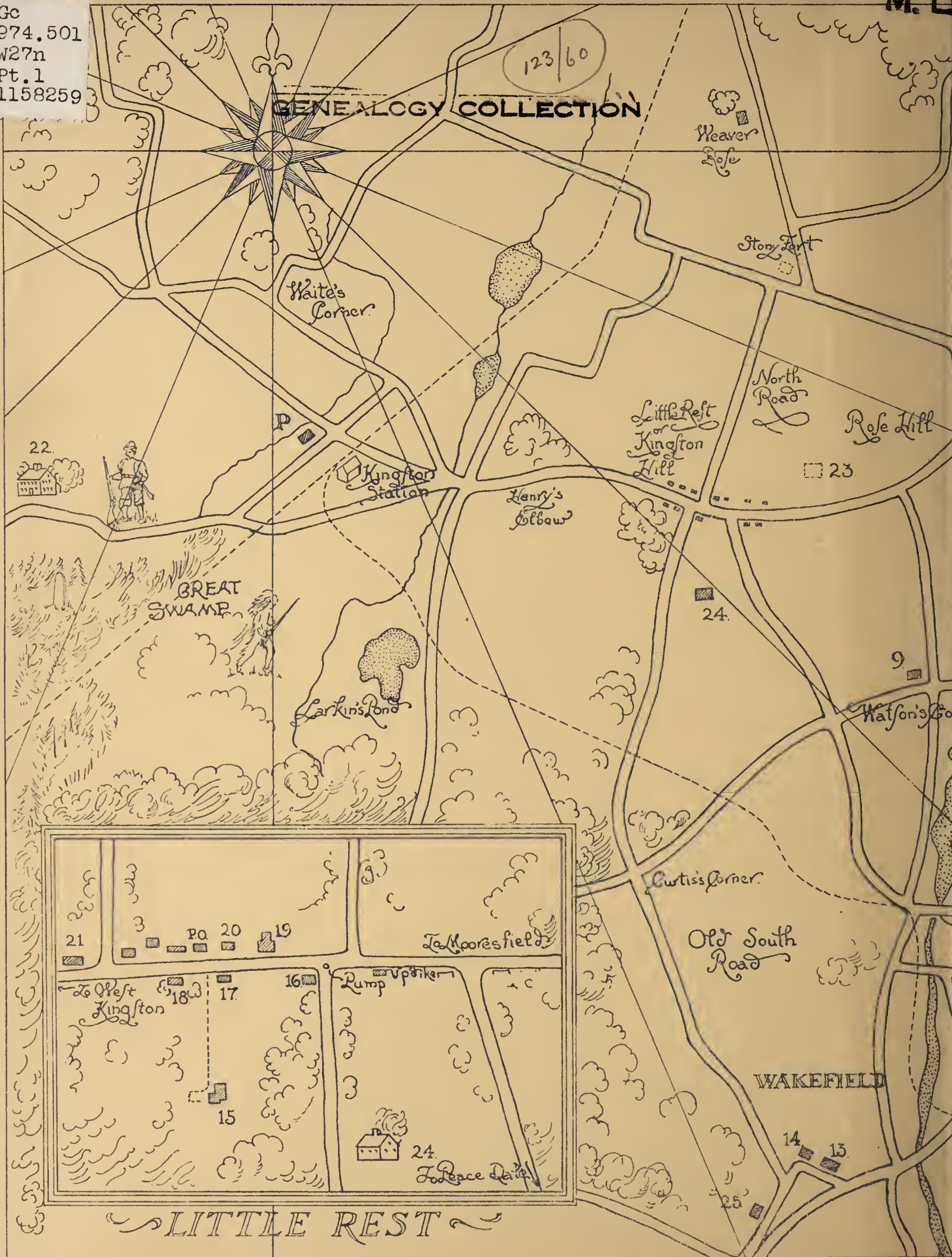
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MAP SHOWING PART OF THE SOUTH COUNTY



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Old Houses

In the South County of Rhode Island

COMPILED BY THE
NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE COLONIAL DAMES
IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND
PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS



PART FIRST

PROVIDENCE
Printed for the Society

1932

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Committee acknowledges its indebtedness to the late Mrs. Nathaniel T. Bacon, who first undertook the survey of the old houses of Rhode Island, and to the late John R. Hess for his many valuable photographs, and wishes to express its sincere appreciation to Colonel H. Anthony Dyer, who suggested the survey; to Norman M. Isham, Howard W. Preston, and William Davis Miller for their advice and supervision; to Mrs. Joseph Warren Greene and Mrs. Clinton Prescott Knight, Jr.; to Howard Perry, Carder H. Whaley, and to all those who so kindly placed photographs, documents, and their houses at the disposal of the Society.

JEANIE LIPPITT WEEDEN

Chairman for the South County

MARION KIMBALL HADLEY BALL

ANITA WATSON FLETCHER

MARY CHEW MILLER

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SITES OF HOUSES DESTROYED

AND

HOUSES INDICATED BY LETTERS ON MAP, BUT NOT APPEARING ELSEWHERE

*These sites or houses do not appear elsewhere because data about them
has not been obtainable or restoration has been too extensive*

A. THE FRANKLIN FERRY HOUSE

This house is said to have been the oldest in the neighborhood. The first floor was used as the business office for the Ferry, which began running shortly before 1700 and was the only means of connection between Newport and the mainland, and the second floor was used as a dwelling. Abel and John Franklin operated the Ferry between 1750 and 1787.

B. THE FOUR CHIMNEY HOUSE

The ruins of this old Tavern, known as the Four Chimney House, were razed about fifty years ago. The Tavern was in existence in the time of Washington, who is said to have stayed here. The site is at the northwestern corner of the crossing of the old South Ferry Road and the present Boston Neck Road. On the corner of the lot stood the much favored Rum Shop. The house was owned by Colonel Willard Hazard.

C. HAZARD HOUSE

Now occupied by Thomas Browning.

D. JOHN SHERMAN HOUSE

E. CHAMPLIN HOUSE

F. MATLACK HOUSE

G. DEACON CRANDALL HOUSE

H. COLLINS HOUSE

I. RANDALL BROWNING HOUSE

J. JOSEPH HOLBERTON HOUSE

K. PERRY HOUSE

On the Perryville Road.

L. THE WHIPPING POST HOUSE

M. OPIE HOUSE

N. BURDICK HOUSE

O. JOSEPH HULL HOUSE

Also known as the Ezekiel Whaley House.

P. MATTHEW ROBINSON HOUSE

Q. COLONEL JOHN GARDINER HOUSE

R. JIREH BULL GARRISON

INTRODUCTION

BY WILLIAM DAVIS MILLER

AN historical survey of houses of city and town built during the colonial and early federal periods has often been made, but very rarely has such research been confined to the countryside. The southern portion of Rhode Island—called the South County, although officially termed Washington County—the King's County of pre-Revolutionary days, did not include that which might properly be described as a town; Wickford, Tower Hill, Little Rest (Kingston), and Westerly being, in the early days, at the best but villages.

The lands of the easterly half of the South County, bordering on the ocean and Narragansett Bay, particularly well suited for grazing, at the beginning of the eighteenth century came into the possession of a number of landed proprietors, stock and dairy farmers, known in later years by the somewhat misleading appellation of Narragansett Planters, whose increasing wealth, together with the cultural influence that the proximity of Newport afforded, produced a group of men and women whose mode of life had no equal in other country districts of the North. Their broad acres providing rich pasturage for sheep, cattle, and the famous Narragansett Pacer, tended by negro slaves and indentured West Indian servants; their education at college and by private tutelage; portraits by Blackburn, Smibert, Copley, and Stuart; furniture from the shops of Townsend and Goddard; silver plate wrought by Vernon and Clarke of Newport and Casey and Waite of Little Rest, are all indicative of the standards of their social life.

The exteriors of their houses were, in seeming contrast, of dignified simplicity, and it was only in the interiors that the taste and wealth of the owners were displayed, as may yet be seen in the Doctor Babcock House, the Hannah Robinson House, and the John Potter House. This simplicity of design was also followed in the more pretentious houses of the village merchants and craftsmen, who were naturally benefited by the prosperity of the "Planters."

This very affluence of the community, which has left to us so many of the finer houses, has, in turn, deprived us of almost all the earliest houses in the South County, at least in their original form. The small pitched-roof house of the earlier settlers suffered from the increase in wealth and the desire for greater comforts, and therefore either was destroyed or was incorporated into the new and larger dwelling, often being utilized as an ell. Fire, decay, and the Atlantic gales have also taken their toll, and one important village has actually disappeared. This was Tower Hill, the outgrowth of the first settlement in the county, which, upon the loss of the county seat, taken from her by Little Rest in 1752, rapidly declined, leaving to-day but one of the later houses of the old village, that formerly belonging to Justice Helme.

At a bend in the Shickasheen Brook, in a cluster of pine and arbor vitae, stands a massive stone and brick chimney, all that remains to-day of "Hopewell," "the mansion house . . . built in the style of an English lodge" in 1751 by Matthew Robinson. Nothing more is known of this house than what may be surmised from these quoted words. It is now but another chimney of the many standing on the highways and byways of the South County.

It is to prevent the loss of such historical and architectural records that the National Society of the Colonial Dames in Rhode Island, through the Committee for the Survey of Historic Rhode Island Houses, has collected the material for this book, the first volume of the survey. Many more photographs and records are preserved by the Society, and its Committee is continuing its research and field work.

To anyone familiar with the records of southern Rhode Island, the difficulties faced by this Committee will at once be apparent. To ascertain the exact date of the building of an old house is a rare achievement. Contemporary letters and diaries are scarce and the retention of title to the lands by one family for many generations precludes reference to the deeds. Wills, occasionally, give dates that are closely approximate, as in the case of Deputy Governor Robinson's mention of "my new house." There remain two other means of identification: the type and method of construction, which due to alterations and additions presents perplexities; and tradition, which sometimes approaches accuracy but, being hearsay and not written, is difficult to verify. Every effort has been made by the Committee to produce all ascertainable facts, and, in their absence, to give most careful study and consideration to any approximations that may have been presented.

To Mrs. William B. Weeden, through whose love of the South County, its history, and its tradition, and by whose courage, perseverance, and efficiency, this book has been made possible, expression of appreciation is rightly due from all those interested in the preservation of the historic record.

*Kingston,
Rhode Island.*

SOUTH COUNTY NOTES

By JEANIE LIPPITT WEEDEN

ONE of the South County characters of those old days was Aunt Ibby, famous slave cook at Willow Dell. She would sit by the hour on her favorite bench inside the great kitchen chimney, smoking her pipe while cooking jonny cakes in a long-handled pan over the hot wood fire, or making the most delectable soups — and teaching the younger generation to prepare their own viands.

Aunt Ibby scorned the freedom given her by her owner, Edward Hull of Willow Dell. She lived to a good old age, faithfully serving two, or three, generations, respected and loved by old and young, especially children. Our mother's friend, old Ned Hazard, said of Aunt Ibby that "she and Daniel Webster intellectually were the heads of their races respectively."

We older ones can remember what a haven of rest this famous old Tavern at Wakefield was years ago, after our long pull over the hills, when we came on top of the coach from Kingston Station, where we left the train. The four horses had all they could do to drag the heavy coach through those deep ruts, over large stones, and at the top of the hills they often stopped to rest. At the Tavern fresh horses were brought out, and so were fresh drinks. Then, with cracking whips and rollicking driver, off we sped, over more bad roads, at the risk of our lives, to the Pier for summer vacations.

All these old houses are built on land originally belonging to the Narragansett Indians. Of what was called the Pettaquamscutt Purchase, made about 1654, of land extending from Point Judith Pond to Charlestown Beach, there were seven Purchasers. And from these seven Purchasers the land has come down by deed or inheritance, or otherwise, to the present occupants. The Post Road then was only a "right of way" given in many of the deeds to those wishing to go to Newport or New York across the Purchasers' land. We read of the use of horse-carts and wheeled vehicles as early as 1704. This may have been the beginning of what is now the Post Road.

The seven Purchasers were: Benedict Arnold; Samuel Sewall, in right of his wife, Hannah Hull, daughter of John Hull, original Pettaquamscutt Purchaser; Thomas Mumford; Henry Gardner, representative of assigns of John Porter; Samuel Wilson; Jahleel Brenton, son and heir of William Brenton; John Wilbor.

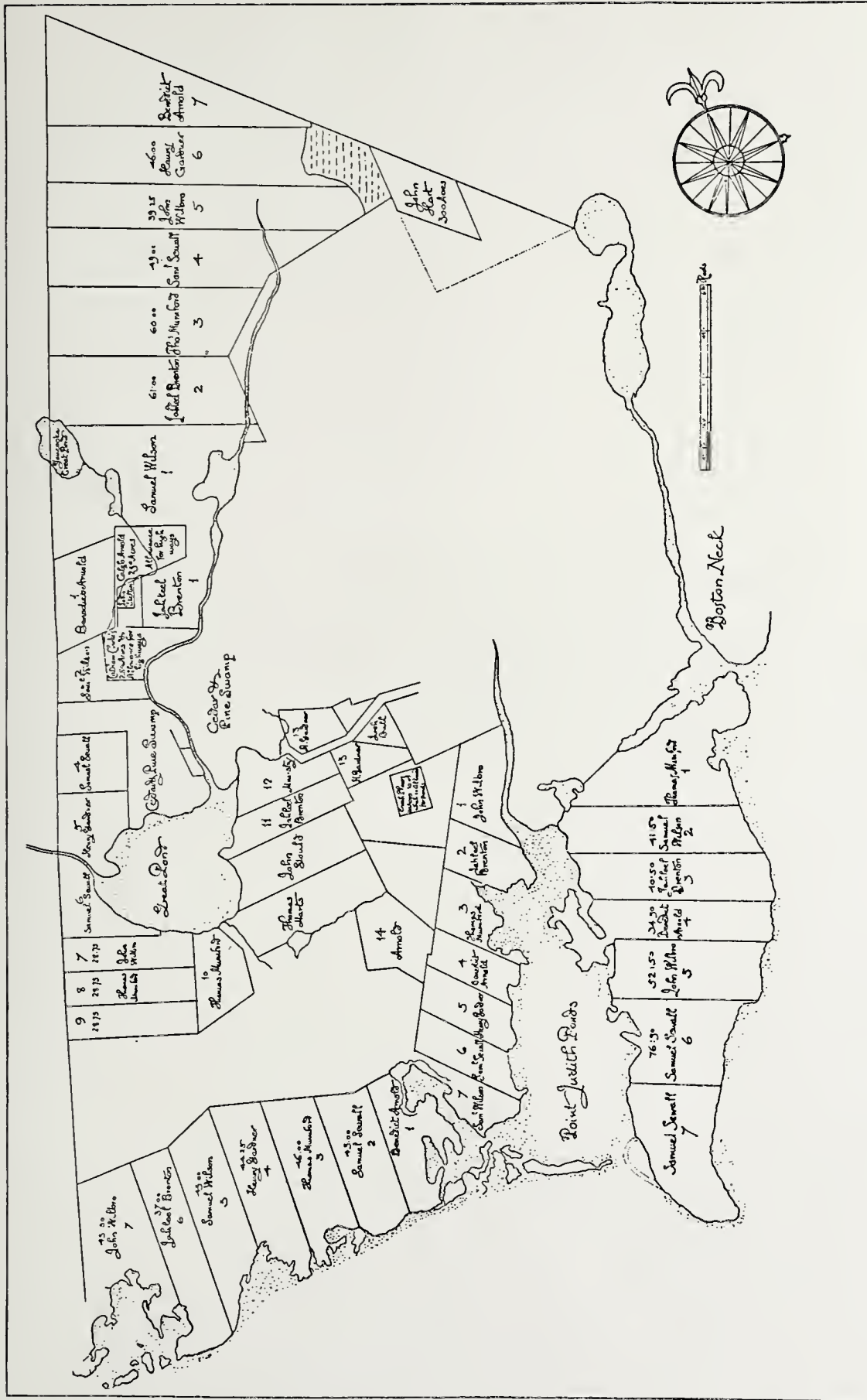
The brick chimneys of these old houses in this part of the South County are built of bricks made at the early brick kilns on land belonging to Carder H. Whaley, near Salt Pond. These works were in existence about 1740. Tons of refuse brick and its materials and a mound of brick dust twenty-five feet square

and nearly one foot deep are still visible on this place. Mr. Whaley has several interesting specimens of these primitive, roughly made bricks.

Elisha Greenman, Noah Holloway, and Jonathan Tucker are three of the oldest men still living in the South County. They built several of the old houses round Matunuck and Tuckertown. They often tell their stories of how they were paid one hundred dollars for the completed job—to their entire satisfaction.

When these houses were built there was no road to the beach. The only way to get there was across fields, or by the ox-cart trails over the Robert Browning land, which we now call the “Driftway.” Descendants of the Browning family still claim ownership in this land, although it was taken by the town for the road.





DRAUGHT OF PETTAQUAMSCUTT PURCHASE

OLD HOUSES
IN THE SOUTH COUNTY OF RHODE ISLAND



THE GILBERT STUART BIRTHPLACE

Old Houses

In the South County of Rhode Island



HALFWAY between Wickford and Saunderstown, where the Mattatoxet Stream flows into the Pettaquamscutt River, stands the birthplace of Gilbert Stuart, a gambrel-roofed house serenely reflected in the quiet water of a mill pond fringed with willows. Here in the northeast room to the left of the door in the photograph was born, on December 3, 1755, the famous American portrait painter, remembered particularly for his portraits of Washington. From this house, where the father of Stuart made snuff, came the boy who, christened by Doctor MacSparran in St. Paul's Church (which then stood at the top of the hill) was later to paint most of the notables of the fashionable and political world of London and the Colonies.

To-day, the house, which latterly had fallen into great disrepair, is being restored under the supervision of Mr. Norman M. Isham for the Gilbert Stuart Memorial, Incorporated, which bought the property in September, 1930. The house is open to the public daily during the summer, and on Saturday and Sunday throughout the remainder of the year. The snuff mill, which Stuart's father operated in the basement, where the fireplace and the brick oven are, has recently been equipped with machinery from an old English snuff mill, and the stream, which years ago furnished the power, is once again turning the great water wheel at the east end of the building.



[1 a]

FIREPLACE IN THE GILBERT STUART BIRTHPLACE



[2]

THE DOUGLAS HOUSE, 1738

The date and the initials C. P. N. are on the chimney, which is an interesting example of an inside end type of chimney. Mrs. Louis Charles Newman is the present owner.



[2 a]

NORTH SIDE OF THE DOUGLAS HOUSE



[3]

THE CASEY HOUSE, *circa* 1725

This house stands between fine old elms, somewhat set back from the Boston Post Road, about a quarter of a mile north of the Newport Ferry Road, commanding a view of Narragansett Bay. It was built about 1725 and was the scene of Revolutionary conflict. Here colonial disputes were evidently settled by arms, as the scars of Revolutionary bullets testify. The original floor of the dining room, which has been overlaid, is riddled with holes, as are three doors in that room and a door at the left of the stairway in the hall. In the same hall, a closet at the right of the stairway proved a safe hiding place for minutemen during a skirmish with the British.

The house is to become the property of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities according to an agreement of the present owner, Mr. Edward P. Casey.



[3 *a*]

WEST SIDE OF THE CASEY HOUSE



[3 *b*]

EAST SIDE OF THE CASEY HOUSE



[3 c]

DINING-ROOM FIREPLACE AND PANELING IN THE CASEY HOUSE



[3 d]

STAIRWAY SHOWING CARVED BALUSTRADE IN THE CASEY HOUSE



[4]

THE HAZELDEANE HOUSE, *circa* 1775

The interior of the living room shows a fine colonial mantel and wainscoting. The house, originally a part of the "Thousand Acre Purchase Farm," known at one time as the Jonathan Hazard House, is now owned by Mr. James Carson.



[5]

THE GLEBE HOUSE, *circa* 1690

This house was the colonial dwelling of the Rev. James MacSparran, D.D., rector of St. Paul's, Narragansett, from whom it gained its name, "glebe" being, according to English law, the name given to the house and land set aside for the use of the Church. Here the early divine, who was sent to America from England in 1721 by the English Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, lived with his wife, Hannah Gardiner, for whose family the house had originally been built about 1690 and from whom MacSparran bought it in 1726. Up the stone steps, which slaves had laid, to his door framed in lilacs came the gentry and the poor of the parish, so that sometimes the good doctor complained that he grew tired of so great a company.

Here he entertained Bishop Berkeley on his visit to the colony. In the great room looking out toward the Pettaquamscutt River he drank many a dish of tea with his "poor passionate dear," who planted the white roses still to be found blooming, and in this room wrote back to England that he found the climate of Narragansett either "frying or freezing."

In an ell, originally at the south end of the house and now entirely gone, he wrote his sermons.



[5 a] DOORWAY OF THE GLEBE HOUSE



[5 b] UPPER BEDROOM IN THE GLEBE HOUSE

Note the hand-hewn beams and paneled wall, characteristic of the architecture of the period.



[6]

THE HANNAH ROBINSON HOUSE

About one mile south of the Saunderstown Ferry on the old Boston Neck Road, slightly east of the present cement highway, stands the well-known Hannah Robinson House, built about 1710 by the first Rowland Robinson and remodeled and added to about 1755 by his grandson, Rowland Robinson, a wealthy Narragansett Planter, the father of Hannah. The fireplace bears the date 1758. The house was originally 110 feet long but the kitchen and negro quarters having been demolished, the present structure is but 60 feet in length.

In this house, Hannah Robinson, the most beautiful of Rowland Robinson's daughters, met the French lover with whom she later eloped, incurring her father's anger. Well known is the tragic story of the subsequent desertion, of her poverty and illness and her father's indomitable will, of the too late reunion of father and daughter, and of the return of the girl on a litter borne by slaves, to this house, to die.



[6 a]

THE LILAC TREE CORNER

Here the beautiful Hannah Robinson was serenaded by her French music master.



[6 b]

THE CLOSET WHERE THE LOVER HID

In the unfortunate Hannah's chamber is the famous cupboard, in which shallow retreat she hid her lover when she heard the approaching footsteps of her irascible father.



[6 c]

STAIRCASE IN THE HANNAH ROBINSON HOUSE

The wood is bass, with gracefully turned spindles and carved drop ornaments.



[6 d]

PARLOR IN THE HANNAH ROBINSON HOUSE

The walls are paneled in a substantial manner and the fireplace is ornamented with blue and white Dutch tiles.



[6 e]

PARLOR CUPBOARD IN THE HANNAH ROBINSON HOUSE

The house abounds in cupboards, of which this is the most beautiful, with its finely proportioned apse shape, its carved sunburst, scalloped shelves and glass doors.



[7]

THE ROSE HOUSE

This house, before it was torn down, stood on MacSparran Hill on the Post Road. The last occupant was James Rufus Rose, artisan and wall builder, known to the countryside as "Fiddler Rose" because he played his fiddle at all parties of neighbors and friends. To Narragansett Pier he journeyed to play for summer visitors, but scorned to use their carriages and motors, being "beholden to nobody."



[8]

THE HELME HOUSE

This house, on the Middle Bridge Road—a road running at right angles to the Post Road about two and a half miles north of Wakefield, sometimes called the Tower Hill Road on old maps—was built before the Revolution, probably about 1760, and is the last remaining house of what was known as “Tower Hill,” the capital of South Kingstown. To the roof of this house, in Revolutionary days, a small boy would be sent to watch the coming and going of the fleet off Newport. Here Benjamin Franklin on his journeys between Boston and Philadelphia was frequently entertained of an evening. Mrs. Roland Gilbert, the present owner, is a descendant of Chief Justice Helme, whose name the house bears.



[9]

THE WATSON HOUSE, 1812-20

This house is an excellent example of the simplest form of large central chimney house. It is now owned by Walter Watson, who is not a descendant of the original family.



[9 a] DOOR IN THE WATSON HOUSE



[10]

THE HAZARD HOUSE, *circa* 1740

This house is most pleasantly situated on the Boston Neck Road on land purchased from the Narragansett Indians by the Atherton Company. Jonathan Atherton inherited the property from his father, Humphrey Atherton, in 1661. Richard Smith, Jr., bought it from Jonathan Atherton in 1673. Thence it passed to Francis Brinley in 1673; to Thomas Hazard in 1738; to George Hazard, his son, in 1740; to Thomas Hazard by devise in 1746; to George P. Hazard and from him to Thomas G. Hazard in 1839; and to Thomas G. and Daniel L. Hazard, the present owners, in 1923.

The house was built about 1740 for George Hazard, the great-grandfather of Mr. Thomas G. Hazard. The underpinning walls are about two feet thick and consist of flattish stones laid in shell lime mortar. These walls were laid only about six inches below the surface of the ground. Consequently, the outside of the building has settled considerably where there is no cellar. The mortar is still in good condition.



BEDROOM IN THE HAZARD HOUSE
The room is paneled in pine to the ceiling.

[10 a]



[II]

CORNER CUPBOARD IN THE MANSION HOUSE

This cupboard, one of the most beautiful in the South County, may have been brought from the older house, the Thomas Mumford Homestead, which stood nearer the Tower Hill Road and was burned many years ago. Thomas Mumford, one of the original Pettaquamscutt Purchasers owned large tracts of land in this part of Narragansett.



[12]

HOUSE OF DEPUTY GOVERNOR WILLIAM ROBINSON

Deputy Governor Robinson (1693-1751) mentions this house in his will, dated 1746, as "my new house." It was situated on the western shore of Silver Lake (formerly called Kit's Pond), near Wakefield, on the estate now known as Shadow Farm. It was destroyed during the latter part of the last century. William Robinson was one of the most prosperous of the Narragansett Planters, the inventory of his property showing an estate of £21,573/5/5, including nineteen negro slaves.



[13]

THE WILLARD HAZARD HOUSE

Better known as the Tavern, this house at the foot of Sugar Loaf Hill in Wakefield was built, about two hundred years ago, on land part of the Pettaquamscutt Purchase. Originally a private house, it later became a tavern, where, tradition says, Washington stayed on his way to Newport. Here, according to *The Jonny Cake Papers*, the Widow Nash combed the hair of Mr. Jackson, the unfortunate traveler from Virginia who was murdered by Captain Carter and whose body the Widow Nash was able to identify by a lock of white hair. For years a hostelry with a tap-room and a great ballroom on the second floor, it is remembered by some as a haven of rest when coaches rolled between Kingston and Narragansett, for at the Tavern fresh horses were brought out and also fresh drinks. Still a tavern to-day, it is owned by the Misses Reilley.



[14]

THE DOCKRAY HOUSE

As one of the older houses of the South County, this house has become a familiar landmark, with its chimney and oddly placed windows. It stands with its end to the Post Road, facing east, just south of the village of Wakefield. John Dockray, merchant of Newport, bought from Daniel Stedman the land "with dwelling" on February 25, 1769. The ell, once used as a store, is believed to have been built in 1725.



[14 *a*]

BACK OF THE DOCKRAY HOUSE



[14 *b*]

LIVING ROOM IN THE DOCKRAY HOUSE

Note the mantel and its decorations and the H and L hinges on the closet door.



[14 c]

STAIRCASE IN THE DOCKRAY HOUSE

Stairways like this were common in colonial days. Many of them have disappeared. This one is exactly as it was over a century ago.



[15]

THE POTTER HOMESTEAD, 1809

At the end of a private lane leading off the main street, opposite the Post Office, stands the Potter Homestead, built in 1809 by Elisha Reynolds Potter, member of Congress, 1796-99, 1803-05, and 1809-15, the father of Elisha Reynolds Potter, Jr., jurist, educator, and historian, also a member of Congress, and the author of *The Early History of Narragansett*.



[16]

THE LUCCA HOUSE

This house, situated on the southwest corner of the crossroads by the village well, was built by Elisha Reynolds after the middle of the eighteenth century. He purchased the land upon which it stands from Henry Knowles in 1738. He was the grandfather of Elisha Reynolds Potter, Sr., by whose family it was owned for many years. The name "Lucca House" is of comparatively recent origin, having been so given about fifty years ago in honor of the noted singer Madame Lucca, who spent a summer there.



[17]

THE HANNAH CHAMPLIN HOUSE, 1754-

The lower floor is now the museum of the Narragansett Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.



[18]

THE KINGSTON INN

The Kingston Inn was built about 1757, despite the tradition of an earlier date. John Potter, innkeeper, purchased the land from Elisha Reynolds in 1755 and the deed makes no mention of a building on the land. William Willson Pollock, carpenter, in a deposition at a later date stated that he worked on the house on that land in 1757. In a subsequent transfer to Charles Barker, who kept the Inn for many years, a house and barn are mentioned in the deed. There are many interesting features in the old portion of the Inn, including the taproom with a hinged partition.



[19]

THE PERKINS HOUSE

This is now the ell of the Hagadorn, or "Hawthorne," House situated just east of the Old Tavern. It was built in 1774 by Joseph Perkins, silversmith and merchant. It originally fronted on the main street.



[19 a]

DOORWAY OF THE HAGADORN, OR "HAWTHORNE," HOUSE, 1827



[20]

THE OLD TAVERN

The Tavern is situated next to the present Post Office, on the east, and was built about the time of the removal of the county seat from Tower Hill to Little Rest (Kingston) in 1752. For many years the inn was run and owned by Joseph Reynolds, the Jo Runnolds of *The Jonny Cake Papers*, and it was here that the conspiracy of the Cat Inspector was hatched. An interesting underground passage commences in the cellar, with its termination about a quarter of a mile to the westward. Its purpose is unknown.



[21]

THE FRENCH HOUSE

This house was incorporated into its present form from three older buildings, about 1792, by General Cyrus French, who had come to Kingston from Grafton, Massachusetts. He purchased the land from two sons of Robert Potter in 1792, and the central portion of the house, built about 1740, would appear to be the house mentioned in the deed as then standing on the land. The other buildings mentioned in the deed were a barn and a shoemaker's shop. A portion of the house is supposed to contain timbers from the old jail, built about 1756, which French also purchased. His son, William French, was the noted hatter of Little Rest whose beaver hats were well known and who is often mentioned in *The Jonny Cake Papers*. The house is situated opposite the present Washington County Jail.



[22]

THE HENRY MARCHANT HOUSE

Situated on the road from West Kingston to Kenyon, about two miles from West Kingston, is the Marchant House, built in the early part of the eighteenth century, probably by John Babcock or his father. John Babcock received the house by inheritance from his father in 1763. It was conveyed to Henry Marchant in 1775. Henry Marchant (1741-96) was a member of the Continental Congress and later Judge of the United States Court of the District of Rhode Island. He remained in this house until 1784, when he returned to Newport, still retaining his ownership in the property. The house contains many interesting features, including inside sliding shutters.



[23]

THE ROBERT FANNING NOYES HOUSE, 1802

The earliest part of the house, namely the southeast end with the lean-to, was built as late as 1802 by Robert Fanning Noyes, who deliberately copied an earlier type of house rather common in New York State at that time, the long sweeping line of the roof being what he particularly liked. The house, which was burned down several years ago, contained some good wainscoting, mantels, cornices, and an interesting square window, which can be seen in the photograph, composed of thirty-two panes of glass and an inside sliding shutter. Fortunately, all the woodwork of the interior had been removed before the fire and is now at the farmhouse at Windy Meadows, Matunuck, which belongs to Mrs. Clinton Prescott Knight, Jr.

1158259



[24]

THE CARPENTER HOUSE, *circa* 1705

This house, known of late years as "The Chanticleer Farm" during its occupancy by Madame Arnaud Michel and her son, is situated about a mile down the old South Road from the village of Kingston (doubtless the oldest house in the vicinity), and was built by Solomon Carpenter (1678-1750) about 1705. The original portion is the western half, and is very finely framed. The eastern end and lean-to are of later date. The chimney appears to be of later date than 1705.



[24 a]

WEST END OF THE CARPENTER HOUSE



[25]

CHIMNEY OF THE DANIEL WHALEY HOUSE

The house, known as the "High House," was built about 1750, and was torn down in 1925. The stones of this chimney were taken to the William Congdon House to build a chimney on an addition to that house.



[26] THE WILLIAM CONGDON HOUSE, 1692-1700

About a mile and a half south of Wakefield, on the east side of the Post Road, stands the Congdon House, now owned by Mrs. Charles Fletcher. It was probably built by William Congdon between the years 1692 and 1700. Mention of the house is made in *An account of the Countrys Rboad through the town of Kingstown*, where the direction of the road is described as follows: "and so along by trees or bushes . . . over a brook about ten or twelve rods to the northward of William Congdon's house."



[26 a] OLD STONE FIREPLACE AND OVEN, WILLIAM CONGDON HOUSE
The woodwork, including the mantelpiece, is new.



[27]

THE CONGDON HOUSE, 1690-1700

This house stands about a quarter of a mile from the William Congdon House and was built about the same time. In 1842 the Rev. E. F. Watson bought the house, and it is now owned and occupied by Harriet L. W. Lewis, his daughter. The original house was built about a central stone chimney.



[28]

THE WHALEY HOUSE

This house, at one time the home of Judge William Peckham, stands on Arnold land. Benedict Arnold, who was three times governor, dying in office in 1678, an ancestor of the well-known Benedict Arnold, was one of the Pettaquamscutt Purchasers.



[29]

THE OLIVER HAZARD PERRY HOUSE

This house is usually spoken of as the birthplace of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, although there is no substantial proof existing that the hero of Lake Erie was born here. At present, it is owned by Mrs. Perry Tiffany and is kept as a museum.



[30]

THE SAMUEL G. POTTER HOUSE, 1800-04

This house was built on part of the John Potter estate by Samuel G. Potter, who was twice lieutenant governor. Note the magnificent old box trees, probably as large as any to be found in New England. The house is now owned by Mrs. Edward Everett Hale.



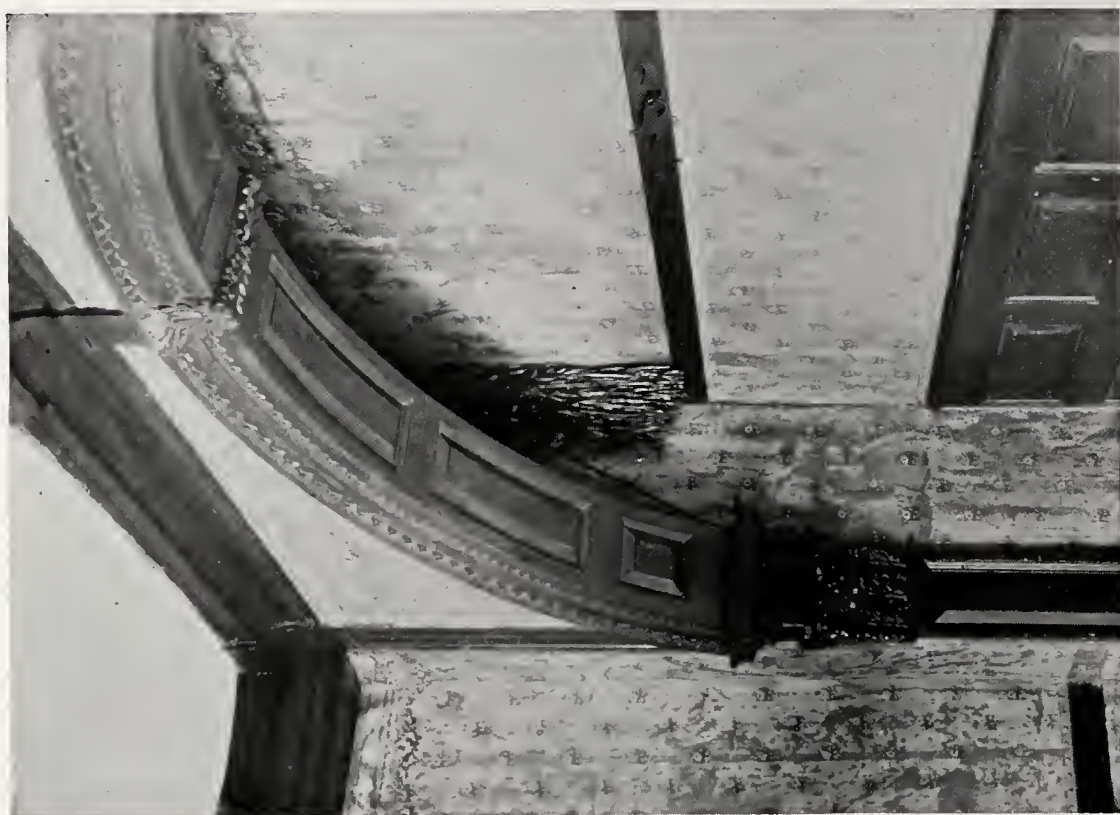
[30 a]

FIREPLACE IN THE SAMUEL G. POTTER HOUSE



[31 & 31 a]

JOHN POTTER HOUSE: CUPBOARD AND ARCH



In the chronicles of the region John Potter comes down as a squire of the eighteenth century, fond of fox hunting, the pleasures of the table, and good wine; as skillful in "fishing for votes of Rhode Island freemen as for striped bass"; an acknowledged but not convicted counterfeiter—the legend being that when the King's runners were sighted Potter threw his counterfeiting press into the deepest part of Potter's Pond, from which it was never recovered. About 1730 Potter built a house for one of his children. Only a part of this house, "the great house" of *The Jonny Cake Papers*, is now standing.



[32]

THE BLISS HOUSE

This is a small house, over a hundred years old, overlooking the Great Salt Pond.



[33]

THE PALMER HOUSE

Sheltered from the strong sea winds by old sycamore maples stands this house, which was built about a hundred and fifty years ago by Henry Palmer, the grandfather of Mrs. George Champ-
lin, who was born in the house. It is now the property of Mr. Henry Holden, of Buffalo.



[34] CORNER CUPBOARD IN THE HAZARD HOLLAND HOUSE

The house was built about 1778 and belonged, respectively, to General Stanton, Nathan Tucker, and Joseph Champlin. It is now owned by Arthur Carpenter. It still has its original doors and windows, three of which have inside sliding shutters.



[34 *a*]

FIREPLACE IN THE HAZARD HOLLAND HOUSE



[35]

THE SEEGAR HOUSE, *circa* 1755

This house, an old landmark on the Matunuck Driftway, built on land of the Pettaquamscutt Purchase, was burned down about 1907.



[36]

WILLOW DELL, 1753

This house, on the south side of the Post Road in Matunuck, stands on land bought from the Narragansett Indians, in 1657, by John Hull, Esq., of Boston, one of the original Pettaquamscutt Purchasers. John Hull's daughter, Hannah Hull, married Samuel Sewall, and on the death of her father inherited much of the land, according to deeds dated 1692 and 1693. About 1800 the property came into the possession of Mr. Bowers, who sold it to Mr. Jenckes, who, in turn, sold it to Wager Weeden and his wife, Sally Hull, in 1826. Judge Wager Weeden died at Willow Dell in 1863, and the house descended to his grandson, William B. Weeden. The picture is from a water-color sketch painted by the Rev. Edward Everett Hale in August, 1871.



[37]

THE HANNAH CARD HOUSE, *circa* 1740

Like many of the South County houses, this house stands on the side of a hill.



[38]

THE THOMAS BROWNING HOUSE, 1730

The house was probably built by J. Carpenter in 1730. In 1780, Thomas Browning, great-grandfather of the present owners, David and Christopher Browning, repaired the main part. The original chimney stands with all its fireplaces.



[39]

THE SAMUEL PERRY HOUSE, 1696-1716

With its large stone chimney and its salt-box addition, this house dominates the Matunuck landscape, a typical eighteenth-century house. It must have been built between 1696, when Samuel Perry came to "Kingstowne" and was made a freeman of the colony, and 1716, when at his death he left by will the homestead and mill and 146 acres to his son James. The house remained under the ownership of the Perrys until 1809, when another Samuel Perry sold it to a Dockray. Thence it passed to Brown and from him to James Green, becoming in 1857 the property of George G. and Thomas Church, from whom it descended to Charles Church and to his daughter, the present owner, Mrs. George Carpenter.

With this house is connected the legend of the ring that returned from the sea. The wife of one Perry, boasting of her riches, as she walked one day along the shore with the wind blowing out her fine silk gown, threw her golden wedding ring into the sea, remarking that it would be as impossible for her to become poor as for her ring ever to return. Some time later, at dinner, her husband cut her ring out of the fish that was served, whereupon the lady grew pale with fear. Years later, as Mr. Charles Church told the tale, she died in abject poverty.



[40]

THE WANTON CARPENTER HOUSE, *circa* 1746

For years a landmark on the Perryville Road, this house was probably built by Thomas Hazard about 1746. It was torn down in 1931.



[41]

THE GREAT CHIMNEY HOUSE, *circa* 1750

Nearly opposite the Quaker Burying Ground stands this house, known also as the "Old Brown-ing House."



[42]

THE BABCOCK HOUSE, *circa* 1788

This house, situated on the top of Green Hill, overlooking Trustom Pond and the sea, on land part of the Pettaquamscutt Purchase, was built about 1788. In 1829 Sam Ward bought the property, which has descended intact, without subdivision, to his great-granddaughter, Miss Julia T. Ward, the present owner. The ell containing the milk room is said to have the original shutters.



[43]

THE LONG HOUSE, *circa* 1780

Carmichael Browning built the house near the mill pond in Green Hill on land part of the Pettaquamscutt Purchase. The picture shows the back of the house with the two lean-tos. The front of the house has two storeys.



[44]

THE GENERAL STANTON INN, *circa 1755*

This Inn, which has for years been a famous hostelry, is situated on the Post Road in Charlestown. Tradition says that before the Declaration of Independence there was a schoolhouse on this site, devoted for twenty years or more to the instruction of Indian children. Then the property came by lottery to General Stanton, staunch friend of the Ninigret Indians. About the year 1775 he converted it into a dwelling, the first storey of which may be seen at the north end of the present restored house.



[46]

THE SHEFFIELD HOUSE, *circa* 1710

On land of the Niantic and Narragansett Indians the house was built about 1710 by a Sheffield of Newport who married a daughter of William Stanton who received as her dowry two hundred acres of this land. Originally, the land, consisting of one thousand acres, was given to Henry Stanton about 1655 by the Indians for favors received from Stanton, who had a trading post at the ford of the Pawcatuck River. This land he left to his third son, William, who, about 1685, moved on the land and built the first house, the chimney and cellar of which may be seen on the hill north of Mulberry Glen, about a mile north of the Sheffield House.

In 1845 the Sheffields sold the house to the Pendletons, who conveyed it in 1886 to Mr. Lucas, who occupied it for twenty years as a summer home. It was then called "Locust Farm." In 1924 Mr. Howard Thorpe, the present owner, purchased the house from the daughter of Mr. Lucas.



[46 a]

STONE FIREPLACE IN THE SHEFFIELD HOUSE



[46 b] DOOR IN THE SHEFFIELD HOUSE

Note the four panels, the wooden handle, and the string latch.



[47] STAIRWAY IN THE BABCOCK HOUSE

The original house, once a part of the Sheffield Farm, was built about 1750. It contains some fine paneling, four panel doors with latchstrings and H hinges, and stone fireplaces and ovens. The exterior has been completely restored. The house is now owned by Mrs. Georgia Dexter.



[48] STAIRCASE IN THE HAZARD HOXIE HOUSE

Note the jig-sawed balusters. The house was originally part of the Sheffield Farm.



[48 a]

CHEESE HOUSE OF THE HAZARD HOXIE FARM

Originally, the Hazard Hoxie House was part of the Sheffield Farm. To-day, only this ell, which is about two hundred and fifty years old, is left of the original building, which was a cheese house and slave quarters. The property belongs to Miss Susan Kenyon.



[48 *b*] DOCTOR'S PILL CUPBOARD, HAZARD HOXIE HOUSE
This cupboard came from a house near Bradford.



[49]

THE DOCTOR JOSHUA BABCOCK HOUSE, *circa* 1750

About the middle of the eighteenth century Doctor Joshua Babcock built this house, to which came Benjamin Franklin as a frequent guest. The ell became the "first Colonial Post Office" of Westerly, under Franklin, and was also a store. The house contains a beautiful corner cupboard in the south parlor, fine paneled shutters, two staircases with newel posts and twisted banisters. A penny of George II's reign was found in the house. In 1817 the house passed out of the Babcock family, becoming the property of Mr. William D. Wells. The present owner is Mr. Orlando R. Smith, whose grandfather bought it about 1848.



[49 *a*]

FRONT AND END OF THE DOCTOR JOSHUA BABCOCK HOUSE



[49 *b*]

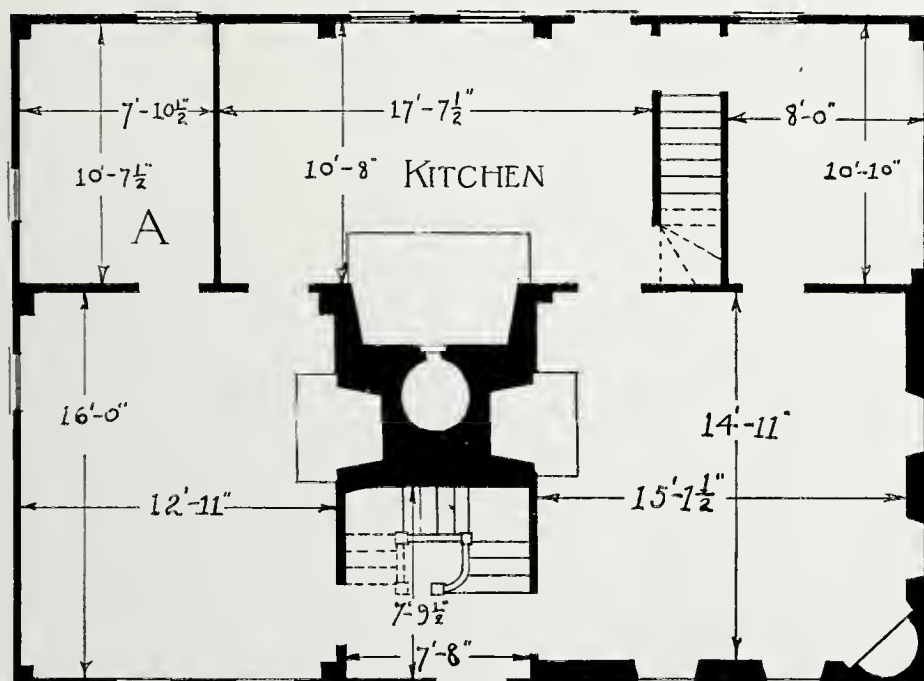
BACK OF THE DOCTOR JOSHUA BABCOCK HOUSE



[49 c]

FRONT DOOR OF THE DOCTOR JOSHUA BABCOCK HOUSE

In order to gain room in the entry, the door has been moved forward.



[49 d]

FLOOR PLAN OF THE DOCTOR JOSHUA BABCOCK HOUSE

The kitchen, back stairs, and "A" are conjectural.



[50]

THE HICKOX HOUSE

The date of the house is unknown, but it is known that the house was standing in 1730. It is at 196 Main Street, Westerly, and is owned at present by Dr. Hickox.



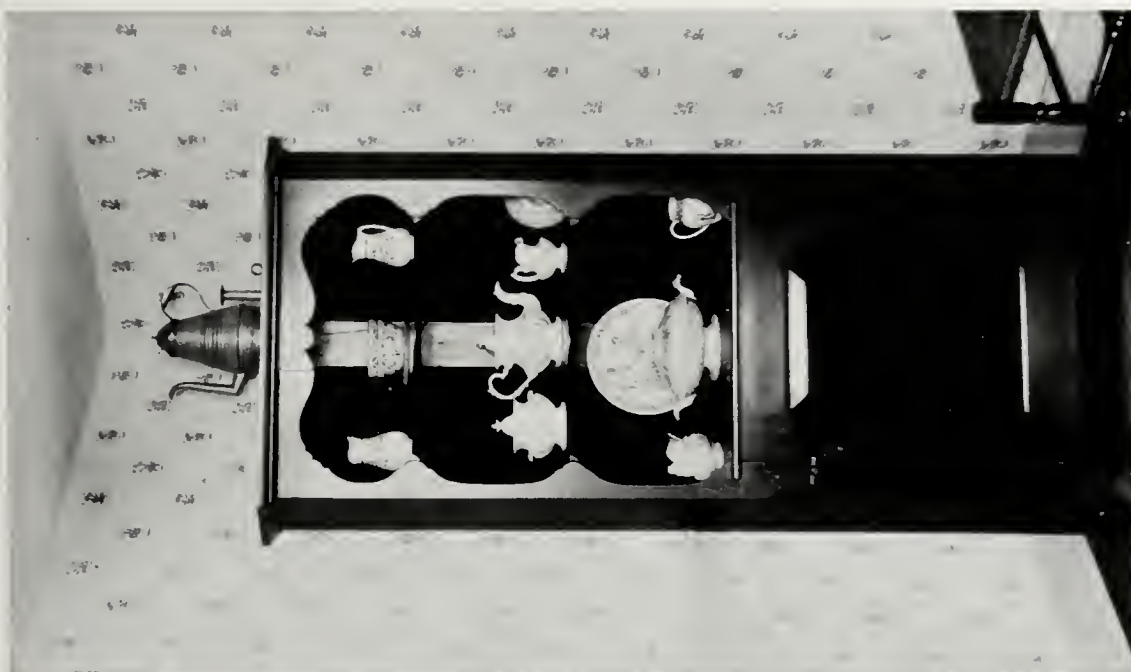
[50 a]

DINING-ROOM FIREPLACE AND MANTEL IN THE HICKOX HOUSE



[50 b & 50 c]

HICKOX HOUSE: FRONT DOOR AND DINING-ROOM CUPBOARD





[51]

THE CAPTAIN CARD HOUSE, *circa* 1750

This house is pleasantly situated at 10 Margin Street, Westerly, near the Pawcatuck River. Built about the middle of the eighteenth century by John Lewis, it has been known as the Card House from Captain Card, who bought it from Maria Gavitt. It is owned at present by Harvey O. Perry.



[51 a]

STONE FIREPLACE AND OVEN IN THE CAPTAIN CARD HOUSE

The room has been restored.



[51 b]

RESTORED ENTRY OF THE CAPTAIN CARD HOUSE



[52]

THE STILLMAN HOUSE, 1748

The house was built by Elisha Stillman, a forebear of Deacon William Stillman, the successful silversmith and clockmaker of Westerly, who was born in the house. It is now owned by Mr. George L. Stillman and stands on the Potter Hill Road about a mile from Westerly.



[52 a]

FRONT DOOR OF THE STILLMAN HOUSE



[52 b]

CUPBOARD IN THE STILLMAN HOUSE



[52 c]

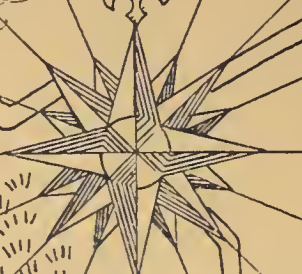
FRONT ROOM OF THE STILLMAN HOUSE



[53]

CHEESE HOUSE ON THE SAUNDERS FARM

The original shelves where the great cheeses of early days were kept are still in this house. Captain Peleg Saunders, Captain of Infantry in the Revolutionary War, bought the place in 1745. It has remained in the Saunders family down to the present date, being now owned by Mrs. Nathan Saunders. The main house, built about 1740, has been greatly changed but the cheese house remains as it originally was.



School House

Indian Burying Hill

Deacon Grandall

POST

N

Charlestown Beach Road

Green Hill Pond

Ninigret Pond

Watahaug Pond

43

44

45

46

47

48

52

50

49

51



